

Resurrection

Metropolitan Community Church

Volume 02, Issue 52

December 23, 2007

Prelude

Joel Hammett

Our Community Gathers

Rev. Dwayne Johnson & Rev. Janice Ladd

+ Exchange of Peace

+ Processional Hymn

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

+ Invocation

Rev. Mona Lopez

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

We Prepare

As the prelude begins, the congregation is invited to be in an attitude of expectation for the worship of God.

We Worship

This hymn is a joyous song of the angels at the birth of the "reconciler" of the world. It expresses Jesus as both human and deity. The author of the text, English Methodist Charles Wesley (1701-1788), was more than a poet. He had an ability to "tell the story," using biblical text and metaphors, actually "praying the scriptures." Wesley draws not only on his own spiritual experience, but also on a profound knowledge of scripture. This beloved Christmas hymn was originally set to the tune EASTER HYMN, which we use with *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*. Felix Mendelssohn composed the present tune in 1840 as part of a work to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Gutenberg's invention of movable type.

We Prepare

There is some evidence to suggest that a form of the Advent Wreath first occurred in the Middle Ages; however, the first modern Advent wreath was made by Johann Hinrich Wichern (1808-1881), a German theologian and educator that founded a home for poor children in the city of Hamburg. During the Advent season, the children asked daily if Christmas had arrived. In 1839, he built a wooden ring (made out of a cartwheel) with 19 small red and 4 big white candles. A small candle was lit successively every day of Advent. On Sundays, a large white candle was lit. This eventually led to the modern Advent Wreath with its four candles. In 1860, people started to entwine the wooden ring with evergreen cuttings. The Advent wreath became a German Christmas tradition at the beginning of the 20th century. In Austria and Southern Germany (particularly Bavaria) it did not become a custom before 1930. It has now spread to other countries as well. Eventually, the Advent Wreath made its way into various Protestant churches and later into Roman Catholic churches in the United States.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Rev. Bernie Barbour

One: Today we relight the candles of unity, fulfillment and hope. We also light the fourth candle for restoration.

All: **We pray that we will live in a way that brings restoration to ourselves and others.**

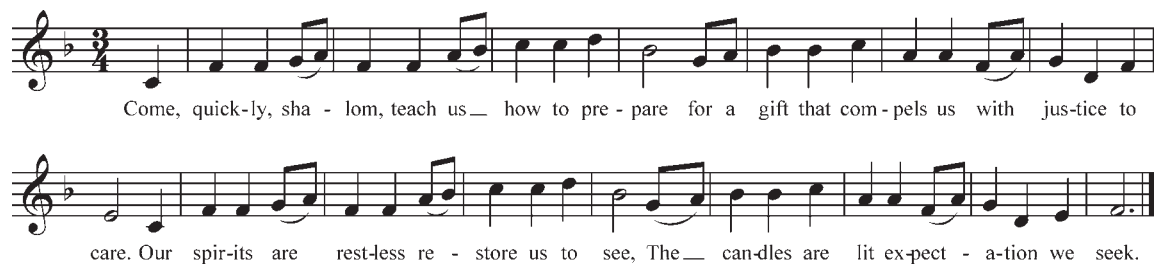
One: Let us be restoration as God's light shines through us.

All: **May we live in expectation for that day to come.**

One: Let us pray:

Community Prayer

Response



Come, quick-ly, sha - lom, teach us — how to pre - pare for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to
care. Our spir - its are rest - less re - store us to see, The — cand - les are lit ex - pect - a - tion we seek.

Psalm Reading

Kelly Caswell (9 am)
Elizabeth Conyer (11 am)

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

One: Shepherd of Israel, hear us, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You, who are enthroned on the cherubim, shine out! Shine out before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh! Awaken your power and come to save us!

All: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

One: Adonai, God of Hosts, how much longer will you be angry while your people pray? You fed us on the bread of tears, and made us drink our tears in such measure. Because of you, our neighbors ridicule us and our enemies treat us with scorn.

All: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

One: Let your hand rest upon the one at your right side, the one you raised up for yourself. Then we'll never turn from you again; our life renewed, we will invoke your name.

All: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Amen.**

Anthem

Gospel Ensemble

Jesus is the Reason for the Season

Words & Music by Kirk Franklin

+ Gospel Reading

Rev. Janice Ladd

Matthew 1: 18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus came about.

When Jesus' mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, an upright person unwilling to disgrace her, decided to break the engagement quietly.

This was Joseph's intention when suddenly the angel of God appeared in a dream and said, "Joseph, heir to the House of David, don't be afraid to wed Mary; it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son, and you are to name him Jesus because he will save the people from their sins."

All this happened to fulfill what God had said through the prophet: "the virgin will be with child and give birth, and the child will be named Emmanuel" - a name which means "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of God had directed, and they went ahead with the marriage. They did not have marital relations until she had given birth; she had a son, and they named him Jesus.

Special Music

Gospel Ensemble

Emmanuel

Words & Music by Kirk Franklin

Spiritual Encouragement

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Unexpected Expectations: Unexpected Restoration

Making Ministry Happen

Rev. Bernie Barbour

Offertory

HeavenSound Handbells

Christmas Bell Suite

By John Behnke

Communion

Rev. Mona Lopez

One: On the night you were betrayed you took the bread;
After giving thanks you broke it and said,
"This is my body broken for you, and as you eat it remember me;

All: This is my body broken for you and as you eat it, remember me.

One: On the night you were betrayed you held the cup
After giving thanks you lifted it up.
This is my life poured out for you, and as you drink it remember me.

All: This is my life poured out for you, and as you drink it remember me.

One: So we thank you for the cup and for the bread,
For we see the life you gave and the blood you shed.

**All: And we remember your wondrous love;
You gave your body you shed your blood.
And we remember your wondrous love
You gave your Spirit to live in us.
And we remember your wondrous love;
You gave your body you shed your blood.
And we remember your wondrous love
You gave your Spirit to live in us.**

We Hear the Word

The angel, a messenger from God who declares God's will, confirms Mary's pregnancy to Joseph, attributes it to God's action, and requires him to do the socially unconventional and shameful thing in marrying her. The angel reveals God's plan by naming the child and explaining the name's meaning. Jesus saves from sins that were punished in the fall of Jerusalem in 70 CE. This is Jesus' "job description." It provides the central perspective on his whole ministry.

We Receive

All Congregations in MCC practice an open communion. We believe that communion is a visible sign of Christ's presence and God's grace, that each one of us... visitor, friend, or member, may receive.

We Sing

During a year's sabbatical from his ministry at Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia, author Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) rode to Bethlehem on horseback for Christmas Eve 1865. As a year that had seen the end of the American Civil War and the assassination of an American President drew to a close, Brooks' longing for peace found expression as he pondered the "everlasting light" that had shone in Bethlehem's "dark streets."

Once believed to have been composed by Martin Luther, its origin, text and tune have been traced by modern research to the United States of the nineteenth century. Although the text is of unknown origin, the tune AWAY IN A MANGER was composed by James R. Murray (1842-1905). At one time he taught music in the public schools of Andover, Massachusetts. He later served as an editor for a publisher of sacred music.

Communion Songs

Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, your name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us; your name is called Emmanuel.

Words & Music by Bob McGee
© 1976 C.A. Music (div. of Christian Artists Corp.)
CCLI License #1025612

Jesus, Name Above All Names

Jesus, name above all names;
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us;
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Words & Music by Naida Hearn
© 1974, 1978 Scripture in Song (admin. by Maranatha! Music)
CCLI License #1025612

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.
No ear may hear Christ's coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

Words by Phillips Brooks, Music by Lewis H. Redner
© Public Domain
Tune: ST. LOUIS

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Words anonymous, Music by James R. Murray
© Public Domain
Tune: AWAY IN A MANGER

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Mona Lopez

+ Benediction

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

+ Benediction Response



Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Postlude

Joel Hammett

**The Worship of
God Each Day**

Grow Up

Spiritual Maturity, Transformation & Application

Opening Prayer

God, I pray that you open me during this time of prayer, study, and reflection.

~ Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Daily Scripture Readings

Sun - Luke 2: 1-7
Mon - Luke 2: 8-20
Tue - Psalm 97
Wed - Titus 3: 4-7
Thu - Isaiah 62: 10-16
Fri - * Isaiah 63: 7-9
Sat - * Hebrews 2: 10-14

*Preparation for
Sunday, December 30

**Sacred Reading
(pages 5 & 6)**

See opening essay,
quotes, or other sources.

**Spiritual Maturity &
Application (page 6)**

See questions and
reflection journal
exercises.

Closing Prayer

Together we are transformed. O come, O come, Emmanuel. We pray for the unity of Christ and the transformation of our community. Amen.

~ Michael O'Laughlin,
adapted.

Opening Essay

Unwrapping Jesus

Even the most jaded adult usually gets at least a tingle of excitement when handed a gift. Flash thoughts immediately begin to race: "What could it be? I wonder if? Is it something to eat? Something to wear?" Depending on our personality (and who is watching) some of us rip the gift open, while others savor the moment with a careful unwrapping. What's the result? Sometimes we receive an unexpected surprised. We are amazed by the gift giver's insight into us.

In this season of gifts, spiritual leaders remind us that Jesus is the greatest gift of all. So, what does it mean to unwrap Jesus? It means that we cannot expect to rip the wrapping off. In fact, opening and receiving the gift of Jesus will take a lifetime and beyond. When you remove one layer, expect to find another. The deeper you go, the more you'll be amazed by the nuances and colors. Some days the Jesus you see beyond the wrapping will be a counter-cultural revolutionary who challenges your values. Yet other days, Jesus will beckon you with a quiet whisper and call you to a place of restful comfort.

Once you begin to unwrap Jesus expect to be surprised. Like those early disciples who heard Jesus' call to "follow me" you may be surprised by where Jesus wants to take you.

I invite you to go ahead and peel away at least one layer of wrapping. Take a deep breath. Then unwrap another layer.

Our daily call is to continually open up the gift of Jesus...and in turn let Jesus be a gift that opens us.

~ Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Message Notes

Sacred Reading

The gift of the incarnation is not exactly what we expect it to be. Some of us are better than others at anticipating what gifts might be waiting for us as part of a Christmas celebration, but even the best at that game are sometimes surprised by something they had never thought to expect.

~ Mary Hinkle Shore, *New Proclamation Year A, 2007-2008*, 34.

God comes to us AT TIMES we least expect. God comes to us IN WAYS we least expect. And God comes to us THROUGH PEOPLE we least expect.

~ Mickey Anders

The birth of love is often hard and difficult. Sometimes we must struggle for it, even as Mary did in the cold of a lonely night.

~ DeJong

It is only deep calling unto deep, love calling unto love, heart calling unto heart, that can break the iron curtains that separate human beings. It is in sparing no effort in building a communion of love that the future of humanity lies.

~ Choan-Seng Song,
The Compassionate God: An Exercise in the Theology of Transposition, 259.

Spiritual Maturity & Application

Margaret Silf writes, "Take five minutes today to be perfectly still. The Christ is born into our hearts' stillness, not just today but every moment. Christ is the turning point of all our nights. Be still and know that God is God."

Take five minutes to turn off the computer, the TV, the radio, or other electronic devices. Hold nothing in your hand. Be as alone as you can possibly be. Close your eyes. Just breathe.

Later, take a sheet of paper or begin a journal entry with this thought starter: "Today I decided to be still for five minutes..." Write for at least a page without stopping. If you get stuck, just keep writing the last word you wrote until something else comes. Go back and read what you wrote, underlining words, phrases or thoughts that intrigue you or give you insight into your self or God.

Even in this electronic age it is a joy to give and receive Christmas cards. Have you ever thought about giving God a Christmas card? What would you write on it? As a prayer activity, select a card and write your thoughts to God. Perhaps you'll wish to thank God, express praise, or ask questions. Put this card in a special place, and review it from time to time. You will be surprised at your discoveries.

Staff

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RevDJ@ResurrectionMCC.org (x101)

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Anthony White

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Cassandra White

Gospel Ensemble Director

Jim Winslett

HeavenSound Handbells Director

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Rev. Dr. Sharon Bezner

Rev. Rick Elliott

Rev. Mona Lopez

RevML@ResurrectionMCC.org

Rev. Tracye Ruffin

RevTR@ResurrectionMCC.org

Worship

Sunday, 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Children & Youth Worship

Sunday, 11:00 am

Nursery

Sunday, 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church

2025 West 11th St, Houston, Texas 77008
Phone 713-861-9149 / Fax 713-861-2520
www.ResurrectionMCC.org

Welcome!

If you are visiting Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church for the first time, we are glad to have you here! We invite you to join us each week as we worship God and learn more about Christian living in an inclusive way. All are welcome.



Creating a Life that Matters...Creates a Church that Matters!

Please stop by the **Concierge Desk**

located next to **Inspirations**, our coffee café and gift shop, to receive a welcome gift. You will find friendly volunteer hosts waiting to greet you.

Worship Services

Resurrection MCC is proud to offer a variety in our worship services. Our two Sunday services, at 9 & 11 am, are identical in form, however they contain different elements from diverse religious traditions each week.

About Us...

Resurrection MCC is a Christian church with a primary outreach to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community. We are a part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, founded by Rev. Troy D. Perry in Los Angeles, California on October 6, 1968. Metropolitan Community Churches are on a bold mission to transform hearts, lives, and history. We are a movement that faithfully proclaims God's inclusive love for all people, and proudly bears witness to the holy integration of spirituality and sexuality.



The **Mission** of Resurrection MCC is to demonstrate God's unconditional love to all people through Christian action.

The **Vision** of Resurrection MCC is to **ATTRACT** people into a relationship with God through radical **INCLUSION** into God's family, transform them to Christ-like **MATURITY**, and **MOBILIZE** them for their life purpose.

At Resurrection MCC, every member and friend is a minister of the church. We envision a Christian community that values diversity and is as diverse and all-encompassing as creation. Through salvation, service, study, and tithing, each member and friend will live and grow in faith and be spiritually fed. To that end, we embrace five core beliefs:

We believe in *God's unconditional love for everyone.*

We believe in *the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.*

We believe in *including everyone and excluding no one.*

We believe in *joyfully providing access to Christ-centered spiritual nourishment and Biblical truths.*

We believe that *each of us will discover our spirituality through active participation in the work of God and in the pursuit of health, wholeness, and justice for everyone.*

Again, welcome!



A vigil of resolve for the New Year

Sunday, January 6, 4 pm

Covenant Church, 4949 Caroline St, Houston 77004

When Kenneth Cummings Jr. was murdered last June, his murderer exclaimed that he was Elijah, called by God to carry out a code of retribution by killing a gay man.

And there was silence. Not a single clergy person spoke out in protest.

On January 6, 2008, they will speak out. At *A Raising of Voices*, members of the clergy, the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, and friends of human rights will speak out at a vigil of resolve. At *A Raising of Voices*, we will lament that earlier silence with music and stories and proclaim that the common thread of all religions is love, not hate. We will resolve to work for a more just society for all.

Rev. Dwayne is one of several clergy participating, and everyone is invited to join in *A Raising of Voices*, as we remember Kenneth Cummings Jr. and commit ourselves to speak out in compassion for all people.

New Members' Class

Saturday, January 19

9 am - 12 pm

**Gathering Place
Breakfast Served**

Rev. Janice Ladd guides the participant to learn the mission, vision, and values of Resurrection MCC, to discover our connection to the world through our affiliation with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and to join this family in purpose, service, and fellowship.

Please RSVP to Jason Wood, JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org or 713-861-9149 x105. Download *Spiritual Gifts Assessment* from www.ResurrectionMCC.org

Music Ministry Opportunities



Resurrection MCC is so blessed to have a number of music groups to minister at our worship services. Solo or professional quality voices are not necessary to be a part of these groups. Below is a list of the groups and when they meet. Please take some time to consider being a part of Resurrection MCC's music ministry.

Gospel Ensemble

Tuesdays, 7 pm

Directed by Cassandra White, this group sings music in the African-American Gospel tradition, traditional Spirituals and contemporary music of all types. Reading music is not required for this group, but the ability to match pitch and sing a part separate from the melody is.

Sanctuary Choir

Wednesdays, 7 pm

This group sings mostly traditional church choral music with some contemporary music added from time to time. The group is directed by Steven Couch. Reading music is not required for this group, but the ability to match pitch and sing a part separate from the melody is.

Praise Dancers

Saturdays, 1 pm

This group is a dance troupe that ministers through dance and movement. Led by Marcus Carter & Leslie Jackson, this group has its own choreographers. Experience in dance is not necessary, if one has the willingness to learn.

Resurrection Singers

Thursdays, 7 pm

This is our newest group. Reading music would be very helpful and being comfortable on a separate microphone. This group is directed by Steven Couch.

HeavenSound Handbells

Sundays, 1:30 pm

Currently there are several open spots in the handbell choir. Interested people need to have some music reading skills. Experience in ringing is not required. The director, Jim Winslett, will teach anyone the techniques of ringing.

Resurrection Orchestra

Weekly rehearsal day has not been determined. We currently have about 6 people interested in beginning this new group, however, we need a few more to have a balanced instrumentation. Reading music is essential, as is having your own instrument (other than percussion).

If you have interest in any of these groups, please email SCouch@ResurrectionMCC.org or call 713-861-9149 x109



Our Children Need You!

Teachers & Volunteers Needed
for our Children & Youth Ministry

Nursery (0 - 2 years) Sprouts (3 - 5 years)
Faith Beginnings (6 - 12 years) Youth (13 - 18 years)

We are now training volunteers to care for
and teach our children and youth.

Jason Wood, Director of Connections,
will be providing one-on-one training
at your earliest convenience.

Contact Jason at 832-971-0354 or by email,
JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org

Parents Group!

**Parents, Parents-To-Be, or
those interested in becoming
parents, are invited to join us!**

If you'd like to receive information
about future events for Parents, email
Parents@ResurrectionMCC.org



Single?

Join Us!

To join our new singles group, or
learn about our upcoming
gatherings, email Brandon at
Singles@ResurrectionMCC.org



Resurrection
Inspirations
Coffee Café & Gift Shop

**Last-Minute
Christmas Shopping?**

Volunteers are needed to assist this ministry.
Please contact Travis Ochoa at
Inspirations@ResurrectionMCC.org

Meet Me At the Manger 2007

***Celebrate the Gift
that Enters the Heart***

by Rev. Dwayne Johnson



Some gifts are gladly
received yet quickly forgotten.

They dazzle the eyes. They may even find their
place in our home. Yet they never quite enter the
heart. Then there is the gift of God's love: this gift
not only enters the heart-it transforms it.

At Resurrection MCC we celebrate the gift of
God's love the entire year. There really is no gift
that compares to spiritual transformation.

The idea behind our Sixth Annual *Meet Me at
the Manger* challenge is for each of us to participate
in an act of gratitude for God's priceless gift to us.

The concept is simple: The power of God was
revealed at the manger through the birth of Jesus.
Nobody would have predicted that something as
simple as a manger would have become a place to
ultimately change history. There at the manger,
God placed each of us first by giving the finest gift
possible: The gift of Jesus.

Now it is time for us to put God first.
Resurrection MCC invites you to put God first by
giving a special offering (beyond regular pledges
and giving) that is equal in amount to the most
expensive Christmas gift you give-plus one dollar.
Such an act is considered a spiritual practice, in
the spirit of such spiritual practices as prayer or
fasting.

Gift giving is all about celebrating relationships,
and our most important relationship is with Christ.
Even one dollar more than our most expensive gift
does not express the value of our most important
relationship. Yet such a gift is a way to thank God
for the ultimate gift of eternal life.

Here is how you can participate. We have
provided gift boxes (available now in the Narthex
and Gathering Place) for you as a visible reminder
of this opportunity. Children especially love to put
some money in the box. Others simply write one
check. Then, you are invited to bring your gift and
place it in the manger in front of our altar.

Join your friends and family at the Resurrection
Manger on Christmas Eve. When you make your
gift list, remember to put God first.

Get Connected!

www.ResurrectionMCC.org

Second Family Care Partners

Kristia Ammerman

SecondFamily@ResurrectionMCC.org

This care team acts as extended family and friends, offering emotional, practical, and spiritual support.

If you would like to receive a care visit, or are interested in becoming a care visitor, please contact Jason at JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org or call 832-971-0354.

Meet 1st Sun, 12:30, Act. Bldg #108

Loaves & Fishes

Robert Sliepka

LoavesAndFishes@ResurrectionMCC.org

Do you like cooking, serving, and providing nourishment to others?

This group provides food for those in need due to a funeral, a special need, as well as for occasional church events.

Care Callers

Karen Cruse

Terry Talley

CareCallers@ResurrectionMCC.org

Do you have a friendly, loving attitude and enjoy speaking with people on the phone?

Our care callers make phone calls to our first time visitors and follow up on congregational care needs.

Volunteer Receptionist

Fabiola Cruz

Carole Wiseman

Jerry Reitz

Reception@ResurrectionMCC.org

Do you like answering the phone and helping out around an office?

We need people to help answer our phone each day from Sunday through Friday.

Training can be done immediately. Please contact Jason Wood for additional information, or to sign up.

Concierge Desk

Leslie Jackson

Concierge@ResurrectionMCC.org

Do you like to help people feel welcome and included?

We need loving, warm and friendly people to serve at the Concierge Desk, located in the Gathering place, before and after both Sunday Worship Services!

This desk will help welcome new visitors, provide them with a free gift, and help them get connected.

Ushers

Kecia Bullock

Dave Mathis

Ushers@ResurrectionMCC.org

We need ushers for 9 & 11 am Sunday Worship Services.

There are 10 exciting teams!

Each team ushers one service a month, at either the 9 am or 11 am Service.

Remember, "No one is JUST an usher."

H.O.M.E. Groups

These small groups meet regularly, throughout the Houston area, for prayer, study, fellowship, and outreach.

To attend a HOME Group, please visit our Web site at www.ResurrectionMCC.org for a list of locations.

If you are interested in starting a new group, please contact Jason Wood at JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org or 832-971-0354

Welcome Team

Flo Perry

Welcome@ResurrectionMCC.org

Do you like helping people feel special and welcome the moment they arrive to the church?

We want to welcome people to the church and help them get to where they need to go.

Team members will be positioned at every door and sidewalk, greeting people with a smile and kind word, offering directions or answering questions.

Join Us For A Celebration!

Cassandra White and Rodney Waters invite you to celebrate the release of their **Live Concert CD, Twisted Torch: A Celebration of Life!**

Today
Sunday, December 23rd, at 12:30pm
in the Gathering Place.

Twisted Torch



Rodney Waters
Pianist



A
Celebration
of Life



Cassandra White
Vocalist

mukuru AIDS Foundation Houston Benefit Concert.

Holy Union Preparation Seminar

Sunday, Jan 6, 12:30 - 3:30 pm
Gathering Place / Lunch Served

Are you and your partner thinking about having a Holy Union? This seminar is the recommended first step to having a Holy Union performed by Resurrection clergy.

It is designed to help couples discuss relationship matters, while keeping Christ in the center of their relationship.



New Year's Eve Worship Service

Monday,
December 31, 7:00 pm

Spiritual
Encouragement by
Chris DeJohn





Christmas Jar Update

by Jules Gauvin

So, how is that Christmas Jar coming? Mine is almost to the top. Have you been putting your coins into a jar since reading my last article, or are you still throwing them into the cup holder in your car? Perhaps you're still emptying your pockets at night and tossing your change into a drawer? Huh? What? What am I talking about?

Well, last Christmas I read a book by Jason Wright called Christmas Jars. In the book, there is a family that collects coins all year long and puts them in their Christmas Jar. On Christmas Eve the family goes out and finds someone in need of that money and gives them the jar.

I stayed up late that night reading this book and knew that I would start my own Christmas Jar come January 1st and went off to bed. As the night wore on I had a vision, some may call a dream, regarding our church. I clearly saw, during our Christmas Eve Service, people getting out of the pews, walking down the aisles, carrying their own Christmas Jars and laying them on the steps at the front of the sanctuary. I saw this as if I were there. I knew I had to tell you about it and help make it happen.

So, dust off those jars....empty those cup holders and drawers...because I'd love for you to join us when we walk on down the aisle on Christmas Eve carrying our Christmas Jars full of coins for Resurrection MCC.

I can't wait to hear the jingle of coins on Christmas Eve.

O.W.L.S. Gathering

Outreach, Wisdom, Laughter, Support: A Seniors' Ministry

Tuesday, January 15
12:00 pm, Gathering Place
Caravan to Pat Walker's Home for Christmas Party

RSVP to OWLS@ResurrectionMCC.org
 Lunches held the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each Month

A.A. Recovery Group

Every Tuesday, 7 pm - 8 pm
 Wellness Center

This is an open meeting of
 Alcoholics Anonymous.

For more information, please call
 Jason Wood, Director of Connections, at 832-971-0354.



yL[®]

youthLife
Sunday, Jan. 13
12:30 pm
Activities Bldg.

youthLife meets 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

Now Training Volunteers! JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org

Christmas Card Mailbox

Drop off Christmas Cards for your Resurrection family members in the "mailbox" in the Gathering Place.



Or mail them to:

Recipient's Name
 c/o Resurrection MCC
 2025 W. 11th St
 Houston TX 77008-6320

Board Members on Duty

Goldie Brown & Georgette L. Monaghan

Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

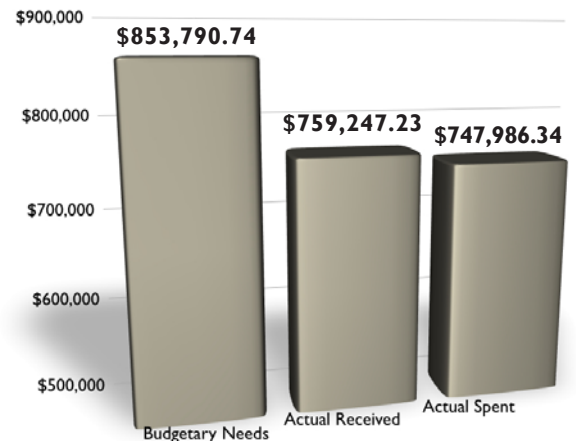
Merry Christmas, with love!

(Anonymous)

General Fund Financial Report

Week Ending December 16, 2007

Tithes & Offerings	Week	Year to Date
12/16/07 9:00 am	131	\$3,243.53
12/16/07 11:00 am	257	\$6,202.39
Special Services		\$20,397.22
Online Giving	\$1,746.00	\$22,400.29
Gift of Love Campaign		\$14,440.30
Other Contributions	\$1,406.00	\$114,729.50
Total	388	\$12,597.92
Other General Fund Income		
Fundraising	\$615.00	\$26,125.15
Miscellaneous	\$10.96	\$61,042.52
Total Received	\$13,223.88	\$759,247.23
Budgetary Need	\$17,604.63	\$853,790.74
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$4,380.75)	(\$94,543.51)



This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

SUNDAY DECEMBER 23

- 9:00 am **Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**
10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry *Chapel*
11:00 am **Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**
11:15 am Children & Youth Worship Service *Activities Building*
12:30 pm Twisted Torch CD Release Celebration *Gathering Place*
1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Sanctuary*

MONDAY Christmas Eve DECEMBER 24

- 8:00 pm **Christmas Eve Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**
10:00 pm **Christmas Eve Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**

TUESDAY Christmas Day DECEMBER 25

- Office Closed.*
7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Open) *Wellness Center*

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 26

Office Closed.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 27

No Events Scheduled.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 28

No Events Scheduled.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 29

No Events Scheduled.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 30

- 9:00 am **Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**
10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry *Chapel*
11:00 am **Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**
11:15 am Children & Youth Worship Service *Activities Building*
1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Sanctuary*